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BOROUGH OF ABERYSTWYTH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1925.

TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF
THE BOROUGH OF ABERYSTWYTH.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Condition of the Borough for the year 1925.

The Report for 1925, according to paragraph 13 of Circular 540 (Wales) of January 5th, 1925, is to be a Survey Report, and the Medical Officer of Health is requested to deal comprehensively with the measures of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health and the extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area, etc.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Aberystwyth stands practically at the centre of the Coast Line of Cardigan Bay. The town lies in a fairly-wide valley, ranging east and west. Except for the flat top prominences rising to a height of 60 feet, on which stands, the remains of the Castle, most of the buildings are found on the flat ground, which forms part of the alluvial flats formed by the River Rheidol. On the northern side the town is flanked by Constitution Hill and Brynymor, rising to a height of 400 feet, while on the southern side is situated Pendinas, which is also 400 feet above sea level. The buildings on these outlying portions have a rocky foundation. The town is open to the full benefit of the prevailing westerly and south-westerly breezes blowing across the open sea, while it is well protected from the cold northerly and easterly winds. The marked feature of the climate is its equability. The average diurnal range of temperature during the last 10 years does not exceed 10 degrees. Owing to these natural advantages of situation and climate, the town enjoys a well approved reputation as a

Health Resort. The climatic conditions render it a desirable Winter Resort for those whom an equable, yet invigorating climate, is essential for the preservation of good health. The town is also a leading Educational Centre, being the home of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth (one of the three constituent Colleges comprising the University of Wales). There are also other Colleges and a County Intermediate School as well as several private and public elementary schools. The total number of students in the Colleges and of Scholars in the various schools amounts to between 2,500 and 3,000, nearly a third of the population.

The National Library of Wales is established at Aberystwyth.

The industries of the Town are few in number and include printing works (2 weekly newspapers are printed in the town), a foundry, Electric Light and Gas Works, Laundries, Motor Garages and, naturally as becomes a seaside resort, a large number of men are employed as boatmen and fishermen. Builders, etc., employ a large number of the artisan class.

The Railway Station was greatly enlarged and improved last year by the Great Western Railway Co., and is now one of the finest in the Principality. A large number of Railway-men are employed at this centre.

Tradesmen and Lodging House Keepers form the main bulk of the rest of the population.

Area (in acres)	1,141
Population (Census, 1921)	11,220
Estimated 1925, Registrar General's Estimate ...	9,090
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	1,843
Number of Families or separate occupiers (1921)	1,828
Rateable Value	£54,378
Sum represented by a penny rate	£227

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

Births.	Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate 10.3 as compared with 18.3 the rate for England and Wales.
Legitimate	86	38	48	
Illegitimate ...	8	3	5	
	—	—	—	
Deaths	94	41	56	Death Rate 11.7 as compared with 12.2 the rate for England and Wales.
	107	51	56	

Number of women dying in } from sepsis nil.
 or in consequence of child } from other causes 1
 birth }

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births : -
 Legitimate 4; Illegitimate nil. Total 4.

This number equivalent to an infantile mortality death-rate of 42.5 per 1,000 births as compared with 75 per 1,000 births the rate for England and Wales.

A further pleasing feature is the fact that there was no death last year from measles, whooping cough or from diarrhoea in children under two years.

Causes of the Sickness.

	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Deaths from all causes	107	11.7
Influenza	2	.22
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	.22
Tuberculosis (all)	19	2.1
Cancer	14	1.54
Heart and Vessels	17	1.87
Lungs (excluding consumption)	15	1.65
Kidneys	7	.77
Other defined causes	11	1.2
Pregnancy	1	10.7
per 1000 births.		
Congenital debility and abnormality	2	2.13

The total number of deaths viz., 107, is lower than that of 1924 by 13. The deaths from influenza, from heart and vessels and from other defined diseases, are also considerably lower than the corresponding numbers of 1924. On the other hand there were two deaths in 1925 from encephalitis lethargica, while the deaths from Diseases of the Lungs (excluding consumption) from Tuberculosis (all forms) and from cancer were higher than in 1924.

The death rates from cancer and from tuberculosis for the past five years are tabulated as follows:—

	Cancer.	Rate per 1000.	Tubercular.	Rate.
1921	... 15	1.66	17	1.88
1922	... 11	1.2	19	2.1
1923	... 13	1.4	14	1.5
1924	... 11	1.2	15	1.64
<hr/>				
(4)	50	5.46	65	7.1
<hr/>				
	12.5	1.38	16	1.8
<hr/>				
1925	... 14	1.54	19	2.09

The average death rates from these causes for the years 1921 to 1926 in England and Wales are:—

Cancer 1.25 per 1,000.
Tuberculosis 1.10 per 1,000.

The following Table shows the death rates from all causes and the infantile mortality Rates at Aberystwyth for the past five years as compared with the rates for England and Wales for the same period:—

ABERYSTWYTH.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Year.	Total Number of Deaths.	Total Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate	Total Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
1921	121	13.4	61	12.1	83
1922	141	15.6	86	12.9	77
1923	100	11.1	55.5	11.6	69
1924	120	13.1	67.3	12.2	75
Total		53.2	269.8	4.8	304
Average		13.3	67.4	12.2	78
1925	107	11.7	42.5	12.2	75

Poor Law Relief.—Forty-nine persons were admitted from the Borough to the Bronglaise Workhouse and 253 persons received outdoor relief to the amount of £439 11s. 2d.

General Hospital.—The Town possesses an excellent General Hospital, recently enlarged, renovated and brought up to date.

The Hospital contains 40 beds and is partly endowed and partly supported by voluntary subscriptions.

393 in-patients and 514 outdoor patients were treated during 1925 and 308 operations performed. The sick poor can obtain either subscribers tickets or tickets from the Lady Visitors appointed under the Downie's Trust Scheme.

There was a small outbreak of paratyphoid last year, 5 cases were notified and all removed to the Isolation Hospital, where they made good recoveries. In view of the failure to trace the origin of a previous outbreak of this disease in the year 1924, the C.M.O.H. and myself decided to approach the Welsh Ministry of Health for assistance to investigate the source of this small outbreak. Dr. Wade came down and made a very thorough investigation and although there were some suspicions pointing to confectionery as the source of the infection, no definite conclusion was arrived at.

There were 4 cases of encephalitis lethargica, 2 of the patients died.

A case of Tetanus was removed to a Nursing Home. Operation and extensive use of antitetanic serum aided in the recovery of the patient.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area. Fever. The Isolation Hospital, near the Harbour, within the Borough, provided by the Local Authority, contains two wards of eight beds each.

Five cases of Paratyphoid B., and four cases of Scarlet Fever, a case of diphtheria and one of encephalitis lethargica were treated at the Hospital last year.

I have frequently drawn the attention of the Council to the necessity of providing further accommodation at the Hospital by the erection of one or two-roomed Blocks for use

as observation wards, etc. Such extension would greatly add to the utility of the Building as an Isolation Hospital and also greatly facilitate the administrative and nursing duties.

I hope that the Resolution of the Council to carry out this extension will be put into effect in the next few months, for it is obvious from the nature and variety of the cases admitted last year and the fact that owing to the lack of such accommodation some fever cases were nursed at home that this is an urgent and essential matter. The fact that there has not been any cross infection speaks volumes for the administrative and nursing skill of the Matron, who has been in charge of the hospital since its erection.

SMALL POX.—The Corporation owns a well isolated residence about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town for use in case of an outbreak of small-pox.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers etc., in the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :—

- (a) For infectious cases an antiquated carriage (landau) provided by L.A.
- (b) For non-infectious cases a very heavy and unsuitable motor ambulance provided by the Red Cross Society, also an old hand carriage stretcher on wheels for emergency cases.

The question of improved ambulance facilities is under consideration by the Council, the General Hospital Management Committee, and by the Railway Ambulance Corps.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at the Parish Hall in two very convenient rooms provided by the C.C. Mrs. Edwards, the keen Secretary of the Clinic, reports :—

During 1925 the Clinic was open 44 times and the average attendance for the year was 27.14, showing a satisfactory and steady increase for in 1924, the average attendance was 23.7. The number of

babies on the books at the end of the year was 448. The provision of hot dinners for School children inaugurated last year under the auspices of the Clinic has been most successfully carried on this year, and the daily average attendance has been over 100. Milk has been provided free in necessitous cases and Virol and Vitmar free when desirable.

- (b) An annual session is held by Dr. Phillips, the Ophthalmic Surgeon, appointed by the County Council at the Public Health Offices at Portland Street for the testing and treatment of those school children whose eyesight has been reported defective.

A Clinic for Tuberculosis Diseases under the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial is held each Monday at Aberystwyth Infirmary by Dr. Lloyd, the Tuberculosis Physician for the County.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Whole-time Officer. (1) Mr. Osborne J. Evans, Sanitary Inspector and certificated Inspector of Foods, A.R.S.I., M.I.H., M.S.I.A. (2) Mr. James Evans, Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

PART-TIME OFFICERS.

- (1) The Medical Officer of Health.
- (2) Capt. R. D. Williams, M.R.C.V.S., the Inspector under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations Act, 1924.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL.

Private Nurses. Nurses from the two Nursing Homes and District Nurses in connection with the Local Nursing Association.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES, E.G., MEASLES, ETC.

The County Health Visitor in the Borough will visit the cases of Measles occurring amongst school children.

Other infectious diseases are treated at the Isolation Hospital or if nursed at home are attended by private Nurses.

The Aberystwyth and District Nursing Association provides a District Nurse as well as certificated Midwife for the town, also a thoroughly general trained and C.M.B. certificated Nurse for the outside District.

MIDWIVES.—None employed by the Local Authority. Eight practising in the Borough.

ACTS IN FORCE.

I. LOCAL ACTS AND ORDERS.

Session and Chapter of Act or Confirming Act.	Title.
5 and 6 Will. 4 C.XLVI.	An Act for improving and regulating the town of Aberystwyth, in the County of Cardigan, and for supplying the inhabitants thereof with water.
31 and 32 Vict. C.CLIII.	The Aberystwyth Order, confirmed by the Local Government Board Act, 1868 (No. 6).
35 and 36 Vict. C.XXX.	Aberystwyth Improvement and Water Act, 1872.
37 Vict. C.1.	The Borough of Aberystwyth Order, confirmed by the Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation Act, 1874.
37 and 38 Vict. C.CXX.	The Aberystwyth Corporation Act, 1874.
51 and 52 Vict. C.CXXXIII.	The Borough of Aberystwyth Order confirmed by the Local Government Board's Orders Confirmation (No. 8), Act, 1888.

56 and 57 Vict. C. CX.

The Order confirmed by the Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 3) Act, 1893, so far as the same affects the Borough of Aberystwyth.

60 and 61 Vict. C. CXLIII.

The Aberystwyth Order, 1897, confirmed by the Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 16) Act, 1897.

5 Ed., C. CXXII.

The Aberystwyth Harbour Order, 1905, confirmed by the Pier and Harbour Order Confirmation (No. 3) Act, 1905.

3 and 4 Geo. 5. C. CIX.

Aberystwyth Corporation Act, 1913.

Local : 4 and 5 Geo. 5. Ch. XLIX.

The Aberystwyth (Extension Order), 1914.

Provisional Order Confirmation, No. 7 Act, 1914.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

The Private Streets Work Act, 1892.

The Private Libraries Act, 1892.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (partly) July, 1913.

Bye Laws for the Regulation of the Seashore within the Borough, August, 1921.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—The source of the supply is the lake known as "Llyn Llygad Rheidol" situated 800 feet below the summit of Plynlimon. The lake is of 14 acres in area and its storage capacity is estimated to be equal to a hundred and fifty days supply. The water is conveyed from the lake in an

iron main, eight inches in diameter, to an open service reservoir of one million gallons capacity, and when this is filled to the adjoining new reservoir of three million gallons storage capacity erected in 1912.

There does not appear to be any possible source of contamination of the water from its source to its final distribution. The water, with the exception of a few stand pipes in Penparke, etc., is supplied direct to the houses from the mains, through lead service pipes.

The water is one of the softest and purest in the country, but it is this very purity which enables it to act on metals, and where lead pipes are used the water may take up sufficient lead as to be possibly a source of danger to those drinking it.

So far as clinical evidence goes the Medical Practitioners of the town are agreed that no ill-results can be traced to this source. The very low death rate for the year and the causes of deaths also tend to corroborate this testimony.

The supply during the summer months was often intermittent, more especially in the higher parts of the town. The Council decided to rectify that complaint and appointed Mr. H. B. Ward, Water Engineer, of Liverpool, to draw up plans and estimates of a water scheme. A Public Enquiry was held by H. R. Hooper, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., at the Town Hall on February 19th, 1925. As a result of that Inquiry sanction was obtained to borrow the sum of £15,000 for a period of 30 years for the purpose of laying new water mains and substituting old water mains as well as replacement necessitated by these works, also including the erection of a Shed and Lime Treatment Plant. Mr. Hooper agreed to suspend the latter matter for further experimental evidence. Dr. Campbell James was asked by the Council to conduct the necessary experiments at the Chemical Laboratory. After patient and prolonged experiments followed also by a visit for enquiries at the Elan Water Works, Dr. James reported that in his opinion sodium silicate grain half to the gallon, was the best method to combat the possible plumbo solvency of the water. The Engineer as a result of this report, communicated with Messrs. Brunner Mond and Co., the Manufacturers of the sodium silicate and their Analyst, Dr. Thresh, one of the highest authorities in the country, as a result of experiments, analysis of the water, arrived at the same conclusion, and advised the addition of $\frac{1}{2}$ grain sodium silicate to each gallon

of water to combat the plumbo solvency of the water. In a later report to the Engineer, Dr. Thresh states that after further experiments the amount of the silicate need not be so large as we at first thought necessary, but that if an excess were used we believe it would be perfectly harmless since the water would never contain as much as is found in the average waters used for Town supplies.

RIVERS. The rivers Rheidol and Ystwyth join together at the mouth of the Harbour before discharging into the sea. Both rivers are polluted not far from their sources by discharges from lead mines to such an extent that fish cannot live and thrive in them.

The condition of the Rheidol, however, shows marked improvement and there is a likely prospect that ere long fish will again thrive in this fine river. On the other hand the condition of the Ystwyth is as bad as it ever was. Several dead salmon were found last season at or near to its entrance into the Harbour.

The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme comprising Pumping Station, Storage Tanks and Sea Outfall Extension, has been completed at a cost of £61,000. The pumping operations were started in November, 1924, and have been regularly carried out since that date. The sewer was extended to the village of Penparke.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Water Closets with intercepting cisterns and wash down basins are in general use in the town. There are 32 privies in the Penparke area, which are cleared weekly by the Corporation employees.

The majority of these should be done away with in the very near future; in fact as soon as the water scheme is completed notices should be served on the owner of the houses of this area to have their drains connected to the sewer.

SCAVENGING. The scavenging is carried out by Corporation employees under the supervision of the Surveyor. The house refuse is collected twice weekly from each house and during the season from the Hotels, Lodging Houses and Business premises three times a week, and a special collection is arranged for the immediate removal of all offensive refuse before 8-30 a.m. The Refuse is tipped on to a portion of the Flats situated between the Gas Works and the Cambrian

Railways, where it is covered over with lime and earth. This is a primitive method of disposal, but if thoroughly carried out may meet the present needs of the town, otherwise a Destructor for the Incineration of the Refuse should be obtained.

DUST BINS. Section 74 of the Aberystwyth Corporation Act, 1913, gives power to the Corporation to require of the owner or occupier of a house to provide a galvanised iron or enamelled iron dust bin for the convenient removal of house refuse. There are a large number of houses without these galvanised dust bins. Considerable attention has recently been given to this matter and a large number of notices served and good results are expected to follow upon this action.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. James Evans, the veteran Sanitary Inspector, who has faithfully served the Council for a period of 37 years, was in very feeble health last year and consequently the Sanitary inspection of the area does not bear favourable comparison with the work done in previous years.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR.

Number of dwelling houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	400
Number of Houses erected	46
Number made fit for habitation	—
Number of cases of overcrowding	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

Number of fever cases inquired into	16
Number of rooms fumigated	30
Number of articles disinfected at the Disinfecting Station	126

DRAINAGE :—

Number of Drains laid or relaid	52
Number cleansed, trapped and ventilated	42
Number of new Water Closets	44
Number of Water Closets repaired	18
Number of new privies	nil.

SCAVENGING :—

Number of privies emptied weekly	32
Number of accumulation of refuse and manure removed ..	57

WATER SUPPLY :—

Number of new dwellings supplied	46
Number of repairs to water fittings	39

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS :—

Number on register	21
Number in use and inspected	21

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :—

Number registered and inspected	1
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CLERICAL WORK :—

Number of letters received	27
Number of letters written.....	17
Number of informal notices	108
Number of informal notices complied with	106
Number of formal notices	20
Total number of inspections and visits made	808

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES ON REGISTER AT
THE END OF THE YEAR :—

Factories and Laundries	14
Bakehouses	12
Offensive Trades	8
Other Workshops	65
	—
	99

Inspection.	Inspection.	Notices.
Factories, etc.	10	nil.
Workshops	100	13

PARTICULARS OF NOTICES :—

Want of cleanliness	3
Want of ventilation	—
	1

Other nuisances	13
Bakeries (Notice for half-yearly lime-washing)	10
Number of Underground Bakeries in use	1
Matters referred by H.M. Inspector	3

SHELTERS AND LAVATORIES.

A Loan of £546 was obtained from the Ministry of Health in 1924 for the erection of two shelters on the Marine Parade, opposite No. 10, Marine Terrace, and on the site of the Old Baths. After some delay a further sanction was also obtained in the same year for a loan of £3,453 for the erection of a Shelter and much needed Lavatories adjoining 46, Marine Terrace. These shelters and lavatories have been greatly appreciated by the General Public and Visitors.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools, especially of the Public Elementary Schools of the Town is good. Closure of the Infants Department in the Alexandra Road Schools and of the Church of England Schools, North Road, was enforced for a short period of a week or so respectively in the months of May and July on account of an epidemic of Measles.

HOUSING.

I. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) General housing conditions are on the whole good. The Corporation owns a large number of the houses, and as the leases are renewed from time to time, a large number have been entirely rebuilt while others have undergone extensive alterations and repairs. The Corporation in pre-war days erected about 100 houses suitable for the working classes and also encouraged private enterprise in the erection of others by granting leases to builders on favourable terms. On the other hand, there are a number of houses left by private owners to fall into a state of dilapidation.

(2) (a) EXTENT OF SHORTAGE.—At least 200 houses are required to meet the present need, chiefly houses for the working classes. (b) The Corporation built seven houses in 1924 and eight houses in 1925, and as stated is encouraging

private enterprise in the erection of houses. The Council is prepared under the provision of the Housing Acts to consider applications from intending purchasers for loans for a term of 20 years up to 80% of the valuation of the premises, for the assistance of persons intending to purchase new houses in the Borough of Aberystwyth.

The Council on November 10th, 1925, passed a resolution to adopt a Town Planning Scheme for the Borough of Aberystwyth to include the whole of the land within the Borough and that Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd who has already advised the Council, be instructed to prepare such a Town Planning Scheme. The Town Planning Committee has met Capt. E. A. L. Powell, re the acquisition of $23\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land at Penparke for the purpose of erecting Workmen's Dwellings in accordance with the proposed Town Planning Scheme.

II. OVERCROWDING.

(1) Extent. Considerable amount owing to two and in some instances three, families occupying the same house.

(2) Partly due to shortage of houses and secondly to the Industrial unrest. Persons who used to work in the South Wales area when trade was brisk are now at home and many of them on the dole.

(3) The erection of houses under the proposed Town Planning Scheme in the Penparke area.

(4) No action taken in 1925 re overcrowding.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

1. (a) General standard good. The majority are stone built houses. (b) General characteristics of the defects found to exist in unfit houses:—Damp walls, leaky roofs, defective eaves, insufficient light, and defective ventilation; also unpaved yards. (c) The defects are about equally due to the lack of proper management and supervision by the owners and to acts of waste or neglect by tenants, and as a general result of both causes several of the houses are in such a bad state of dilapidation that the owners would rather have same closed than go to the cost of repairing and making them suitable for habitation.

2. General action taken as regards unfit houses under
 (a) Public Health Acts ; (b) The Housing Acts.

Notices are served by the Sanitary Inspector and if not complied with the matters are brought before the Sanitary Committee, whose declared policy, as previously mentioned, is to compel the owners to remedy the defects and in default then the Corporation will carry out the work under the direction of the Surveyor and charge the cost of same to the owners.

Closing Orders were made as to five houses in Castle Lane, Trefechan, but so far have not been enforced as the tenants cannot find rooms elsewhere.

3. DIFFICULTIES IN REMEDYING UNFITNESS, ETC.

Partly referred to in previous paragraph. The unwillingness of owners to spend money on old houses without having sufficient recompense for such expenditure, and also a guarantee that these old buildings if rendered habitable should not be closed again in a few years time. The 16 back to back houses are well built ones and in view of the above reasons and of the shortage of houses it is not deemed advisable to carry out any alterations in these back to back houses.

4. Conditions so far as they effect housing as regards water supply closet accommodation and refuse disposal:—etc. Water supply ample. Closet accommodation, generally speaking, ample. In the back to back houses, there is only one W.C. to every three houses while in Penparke area 32 privies are in use. Refuse Disposal: Lack of galvanised iron bins.

IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

(1) Penparke Area. Portion of the Village of Penparke, especially Back Street, area, is an unhealthy one. Owing to its situation and to the fact that the sewer has been extended to the village and that the water supply is good, this area in my opinion is a suitable one for a Reconstruction Scheme.

The Castle Lane, area in Trefechan is also an unhealthy area and the Closing Orders should be enforced.

V. BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES LET AS LODGINGS
AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

The Council is now in course of adopting Parts II. to V of Public Health Act, 1925, and the adoption of Section 43 will enlarge the powers of the Council in dealing with this matter.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	44
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923—	
(1) By the L.A.	8
(2) By other bodies or persons	18

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses :—

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	400
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	50
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

2. Remedy of Defects without service or formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	10
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—

(a) By Owners nil.
 (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... —

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 101

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By Owners 98
 (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... nil.

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 17 AND 18 OF THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view by the making of Closing Orders 5

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 5

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit nil.

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. Seventy-five per cent. of the Milk Supply of the Borough is brought into the town from outside the District. The arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character are far from being satisfactory.

(1) No action taken as to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle.

(2) Two Grade A milk supplies are sold in the town and at the present time one supply of Tuberculous Tested Grade A milk, others are expected to follow suit and one certified Tuberculous Tested Grade A milk is shortly expected to be sold.

The attention of the public has been strongly drawn to the question of obtaining pure milk by Lantern Lectures at the Agricultural Buildings, U.C.W., and elsewhere.

(3) No refusal or revocation occurred last year. Capt. R. D. Williams, M.R.C.V.S (in his annual report which is appended) states that there were no signs of tubercle detected in any of the cattle in the Cowsheds within the Borough.

(b) MEAT. Capt. R. D. Williams, M.R.C.V.S. was appointed under the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924 the Meat Inspector for the Borough. His able and instructive annual report gives full information re points 1, 2, and 3 of this section.

(c) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Milk Samples taken in the Borough by the Police	55
Number found genuine	46
Slightly deficient either in milk fat or non-fatty solids	4
Number of prosecutions	5
(One withdrawn, one dismissed and three fined).	
One Sample of Butter found to be genuine.	

The Medical Officer of Health condemned eight boxes of Tomatoes, two boxes of Codlings, and two stones of fillets, and with the Meat Inspector condemned five dozen crabs and three lobsters.

Capt. Williams condemned in all 403 livers, etc. For details see his report.

The Sanitary Inspector is also a qualified Inspector of foods and has commenced his inspection of the shops of the town for unsound food.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, or under the Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following comparative Table shows the number of the Notifiable Diseases for the past five years :—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total for 5 years.				Removed to Hospital.				Total removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
						1921		1922		1923		1924			
						1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Small-pox	...	4	8	6	3	23	23	28	4	2	1	14	2	1	2
Diphtheria	...	15	31	13	13	6	78	15	7	4	8	4	61	1	1
Scarlet Fever	...	5	14	7	8	6	40	3	0	1	6	6	10	12	12
Pneumonia	...	3	2	1		3									
Erysipelas	...														
Malaria	...														
Encephalitis	...														
lethargica	...														
Enteric fever, including para-typhoid	...														
Puerperal Fever															
	29	56	31	44	23	175	15	38	13	19	18	103	103	103	103

The Diseases of marked importance, viz., the outbreak of Paratyphoid B in 1924 and 1925, together with the four cases of encephalitis lethargica in 1925 have already been referred to in this report.

Diphtheria antitoxin is stocked by the Chemists and supplied free to the General Practitioners of the town, so that no time is lost in making use of the antitoxin.

The Medical Practitioners are slow in notifying cases of Pneumonia. Pathological and Bacteriological examinations were made by Dr. Ernest Jones at the Agricultural Buildings Laboratory, while other specimens were sent to the Clinical Research Association, London. The 34 specimens examined in 1925, comprised :—

- 10 throat swabs (five positive for diphtheria).
- 6 sputa (1 positive for tubercle).
- 17 Blood sera (five positive for Paratyphoid B.).
One examination of faeces for latter disease in search of a carrier was negative.

The sputa of patients seen at the Clinic for tuberculosis are not included in the above list.

No use has been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively.

Cancer as previously mentioned seems to be on the increase. There are no obvious reasons such as errors of diet, etc., to account for this increase.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1925.**

Disease.	Total No. of cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox ...	0		
Scarlet Fever ...	6	4	0
Diphtheria ...	2	1	0
Pneumonia ...	6	6	4
Enteric Fever in- cluding para- typhoid ...	5	5	0
Puerperal Fever			
Encephalitis lethargica ...	4	2	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Treated.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At home	In hospital.				
	3	2				
			3	—	—	—

THE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITIES (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1920.

Total Vessels that entered the Harbour 10
 Total Tonnage 1516

Some were inspected by the Sanitary Officer, others by the M.O.H.

No cause for complaint was found.

Appended to the Report is the Table of the Causes of Death as compiled at the General Register Office, Somerset House, London, W.C.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. THOMAS, T.D., M.B.,
 B.S. (Lond.), etc.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

April 16th, 1926.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 80—05.

ABERYSTWYTH M.B., 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	51	56
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	
8. Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
9. Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
11. Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	9
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	
15. Cerebral hemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...		4
20. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	
22. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...		1
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	2	
25. Acute and Chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
26. Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...		1
28. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	2	
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	
30. Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...
31. Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	8
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)							
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...

CAUSES OF DEATH—(Continued)						M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	Total	...	...	3	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	41	53
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	38	48
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Population	...	...	...	...	...	9,090	

General Register Office,
 Somerset House, London, W.C.2.
 March, 1926.

TABLE X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle 1924, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1923. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	All Causes.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths.	
			Fainter Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Total Deaths (under Two Years)	Deaths Certified by Practitioners	Inquests	Cases of Death.	Deaths Certified by Medical Practitioners	Inquests
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	7.5	9.21	6.9	4.0	
105 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	7.9	9.21	7	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000 London	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	7.4	9.30	5.9	1.1	
Aberystwyth	10.3	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.22	0.00	42	96.0	2.0	2.0

FORM A.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1925.

		NUMBER INSPECTED.			Number of Orders issued.
		By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	Number reported to be de- fective.	
Foreign					
Steamers	3	464	1	2	—
Motor	2	380	1	—	—
Sailing					
Fishing					
Total Foreign	5	840	1	2	
Coastwise					
Steamers	2	429	1	—	
Motor	3	243	1	—	
Sailing					
Fishing					
Total Coastwise	5	672	1	—	
Total Foreign, and Coastwise	10	1516	10	10	

FORM B.

RATS DESTROYED IN 1925.

Black Rats	
Brown Rats	
Rats examined	
Rats infected with plague	
Rats not infected	Nil.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF ABERYSTWYTH.

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1925.

As soon as my appointment was confirmed by the Council, I deemed it my duty to call the Master Butchers of the town together, when I explained the Regulations to them, and after a very healthy discussion, they left quite satisfied with my interpretation of the Order. The same was done with the Country Butchers, who supply the town regularly, and the special clauses such as cleanliness in the handling of meat was pointed out to them.

You will agree with me that it is very difficult to break through old customs, which have been in vogue for many years in the meat trade, but I am pleased to inform you that the attempt made by me as Meat Inspector has been quite successful. For your guidance these are some of the orders issued :—

Firstly—That notices should be placed visible to all purchasers in a prominent part of the shop, requesting them not to handle the meat. This was complied with willingly.

Secondly—On the 2nd of April I issued an order that all the feet from the fetlock joint should be removed. My reason for doing so was essential to the cleanliness of the meat, as I found that the majority of the claws were covered with dirt, filth and dung. Also I found that the country butchers were in the habit of covering the fore-feet with newspaper, so as to prevent the dirt getting in the meat, but instead of dirt, I found that the ink from the paper was deposited on the fore-quarters. To combat the two evils I issued an order that the feet were to be removed at the time of slaughter. This order had another effect from a sanitary point of view, which was the absence of sheep's feet about the streets, that had been kicked out of the shops by customers and carried out by dogs. I claim that the absence of such about the streets was a good step towards the sanitary conditions of a watering place. Further I allowed the Easter lambs to be dressed as usual, as it was a guide for the customers that they were buying seasonable meat. Later this Order was revoked and the fore-feet were removed, but the hind feet were

allowed on for the season. In September the original order was put in force, that all feet were to be removed. This was carried out without protest.

Thirdly—Section II of the Order, Para. 13 was enforced, viz., that no person shall inflate the carcase or any part of the carcase with his own breath. This has been a very old custom amongst butchers. It was mostly applied in connection with calves, and in conjunction with the inflation, the habit of plugging underneath the kidneys with paper and wipers. This order has been carried out in its entirety and I am pleased to inform you that inflation and plugging is extinct and is now only a custom of the past.

Fourthly—Under Part V. of the Order, Section 5, sub-section (d). That a covered receptacle be placed in the shops or any place convenient to receive the trimmings, refuse and rubbish instead of the open buckets. In all shops this has been carried out.

I have thought it my duty to visit the slaughterhouse daily, early and late, and during the season twice and thrice a day, as the work required. All animals, especially the beef, have been examined before slaughter, and anything found suspicious I have given order that the carcase is to be retained at the Slaughterhouse for special examination.

Besides visiting the Slaughterhouse, I may state that all the shops in the Borough (fresh and frozen) are visited periodically, but I always do so when the shops are void of customers, as I am of opinion that it is unnecessary to handle and condemn anything in the presence of those who are customers. Special attention has been brought to bear in the meat imported from the country, and during the summer months I have posted myself at Tresechan for the arrival of the consignments, so that I could know first hand whether the meat is properly protected from contamination during transit. It am pleased to inform you that the regular butchers have taken all precautions, and in every case I have found the coverings clean and the meat properly covered.

In conclusion, I may state that the Master Butchers in the Borough have carried out my instructions, and have given me every assistance and facilities to inspect their meat and shops. Also credit must be given to the Slaughtermen for the clean way they have done their work, as regards bleeding and dressing, and when I have had cause to reprimand them they have taken it in the proper spirit and have done all in their power willingly to rectify matters.

I enclose the following table, showing the number of animals slaughtered at the Borough Slaughterhouse.

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
April	...	61	417	9
May	...	52	571	9
June	...	39	963	6
July	...	45	1673	12
Aug.	...	56	1949	18
Sept.	...	51	1101	9
Oct.	...	65	678	3
Nov.	...	61	500	3
Dec.	...	74	431	nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	505	8283	69	504
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total number of livers condemned for the same period, —387 Sheep, Beef and Pigs. Cause,—Liver Fluke, Cysts, and Cirrhosis.

Four lungs were condemned as tubercular.

Two livers were condemned as tubercular.

One beef carcase condemned (tuberculosis with emaciation).

One beef carcase condemned, emaciated.

One beef carcase condemned, septicaemia.

Two heads and tongue condemned, actinomycosis.

Two sheep carcases condemned, emaciation and dropsy.

One sheep carcase condemned, jaundice.

One calf, improperly bled and emaciated.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND YARD.

As a building, the Slaughterhouse is well constructed, with ample ventilation, light and good sanitary conditions. It will bear inspection with any Slaughterhouse in the Principality. The accommodation internally is all that is re-

quired, with a good constant water supply, for the use of the slaughtermen, and for flushing the premises. During the year, the Electric light was installed, which has proved of immense benefit to the slaughtermen and all connected with the trade. In the yard, great improvements have been carried out. The sale ring has been enlarged, and seating accommodation has been supplied for the public. The Yard has been partially roofed, which in my opinion has been of invaluable benefit to the stock, as well as the buyers and sellers. Lastly, credit must be given to the Superintendent, for the capable and satisfactory manner he has carried out his duties, inside and outside. On every occasion I have found the premises clean and in order after slaughtering, and the Sales.

COWSHEDS.

In the Borough there are thirteen licensed cowsheds, housing on an average fifty-five cows, eleven of which are producers and retailers of milk within the Borough.

I have periodically inspected and made clinical examinations of all the cows. The health and condition of the animals are fairly good, some better than others. The cleanliness, which is essential for the production of Clean Milk, in some cases could be improved, but unfortunately, the late Sanitary Inspector on account of ill-health was unable to carry out necessary improvements. It is my intention to recommend my Council, that no license be granted to any producer of milk, unless constructive and sanitary improvements are taken in hand during the coming year. I am pleased to state that during my inspections, no Infectious or Contagious disease has been found among the cattle. Special attention has been made of the Mammary glands and no signs have been found of Tubercular Mastitis, but all quarters have be found sound and correct.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

R. D. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.V.S.,